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ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	/040W		

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O 071536Z FEB 94 ZAR-2 ZDK PER HSD SVC 0161W

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5668

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 00551

PARIS FOR PERLOW

BRUSSELS FOR DUBROW

C O R R E C T E D COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, RW

SUBJECT: A/S BENNET'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

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HABYARIMANA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA RECEIVED A/S BENNET FEBRUARY 1 FOR AN HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION OF RWANDA'S ROLE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS IN RWANDA. THOUGH THE PRESIDENT UNDERLINED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN MOVING AHEAD, BENNET ENCOURAGED HIM TO TURN THE SITUATION AROUND, MAKING RWANDA A MODEL FOR PEACEKEEPING IN AFRICA. SUCH MOVEMENT FORWARD ON THE PEACE PROCESS WOULD ALSO ENHANCE RWANDA'S IMAGE AND ROLE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS. END

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 03 MAY 2005 200103014

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SUMMARY.

3. THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY THANKING THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE UNITED STATES' HELP IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ESPECIALLY FOR ITS ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL DURING THE DIFFICULT WAR YEARS. HE HOPED A/S BENNET'S VISIT WOULD PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH POLITICAL REALITIES IN RWANDA. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE ANY SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD HELP HIM ESTABLISH A RESPONSIBLE PEACE. HE ALSO VOLUNTEERED FULL COOPERATION OF THE RWANDAN MISSION IN NEW YORK ON SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES. THE PRESIDENT THEN WENT THROUGH THE STEPS THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORD: SECURING UN PRESENCE, BRINGING THE RPF POLITICAL FORCES TO TOWN, AND HIS OWN SWEARING IN. HE BELIEVED THE

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FAILURE TO INSTALL A GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTED A BASIC LACK OF CONFIDENCE AMONGST POLITICAL LEADERS AND LACK OF POLITICAL WILL TO PRESS FORWARD ON THE PEACE PROCESS.

4. A/S BENNET, IN TURN, OUTLINED THE PURPOSES FOR HIS TRIP: TO REVIEW WITH RWANDA COMMON CONCERNS IN MULTILATERAL ARENAS, ESPECIALLY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND TO EXPRESS AS WELL OUR CONCERN AT THE IMPASSE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE AGREEMENT. HE CONSIDERED THE ARUSHA AGREEMENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT PEACEKEEPING RESOLUTIONS FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES VOTED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS IMPORTANT HISTORIC MILESTONES. THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THEY AFFORDED FOR PEACE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WASTE AWAY.

5. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT RWANDAN POLITICAL LEADERS WANT PEACE AND HE WAS PREPARED TO SEEK COMPROMISES IN ORDER THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WOULD GO FORWARD. HE ASSURED SECRETARY BENNET OF HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ACCORD AND HIS RECOGNITION OF THE SCHEDULING CONSTRAINTS WHICH REQUIRED EARLY INSTALLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE A/S WAS QUICK TO THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR THIS CLEAR ASSURANCE OF COMMITMENT TO THE ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS AND RECOGNITION OF ESSENTIAL TIMETABLES.

6. THE PRESIDENT THEN RAISED THE REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF ISSUE, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WERE FUNDAMENTAL

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ETHNIC PROBLEMS WHETHER IN RWANDA, BURUNDI OR IN
EASTERN ZAIRE. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE FELT, TO

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CONFRONT THESE ETHNIC PROBLEMS AND DEAL WITH THEM,
RATHER THAN TO IGNORE THEM OR TO CLAIM THEY DID NOT
EXIST. HE CALLED FOR MUTUAL REASSURANCE IN THIS
PERIOD OF TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ORDER
THAT DISTRUST AMONG CONTENDING PARTIES AND ETHNIC
GROUPS MIGHT BE DIMINISHED. A/S BENNET RECOGNIZED
THAT ETHNIC TENSIONS WERE A DECISIVE FACTOR NOT ONLY
IN CENTRAL AFRICA BUT IN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE
WORLD. THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED TO RWANDA
WAS THE CHANCE TO DISPROVE THE IDEA THAT ETHNIC
TENSIONS MUST DESTROY SOCIETY. RWANDA SHOULD NOT
WAIT FOR PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED IN OTHER AREAS OF
THE REGION; SUCH DELAYS MIGHT EXACERBATE TENSIONS

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	USIE-00	RPE-01	/039W				

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EVEN WITHIN RWANDA. RATHER, NOW WAS THE TIME FOR BRAVE LEADERS TO STEP FORWARD BY TRANSCENDING ETHNIC CONFLICT, AND LEAD RWANDA TO PEACE. RWANDA COULD BECOME A POLE OF STABILITY, THE STANDARD AROUND WHICH OTHERS IN THE REGION MIGHT RALLY.

7. IN HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS, A/S BENNET NOTED THE GREAT SENSE OF URGENCY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VIEWED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN RWANDA. RWANDA COULD BECOME A SUCCESS STORY, A MODEL FOR OTHER PEACEKEEPING ENDEAVORS, NOT ONLY IN AFRICA, BUT AROUND THE WORLD. ITS ROLE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF IT WERE TO QUICKLY ESTABLISH ITS GOVERNMENT, THUS CONFORMING TO DEMANDS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON PEACEKEEPING IN RWANDA.

8. NOTE: A/S BENNET HAS NOT CLEARED THE ABOVE REPORT. RAWSON

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